**Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Curatorial Fellowship**

**at the American Philosophical Society**

***Application deadline: November 26, 2018. Notification: February 2019***

The American Philosophical Society (APS), the nation’s first learned society, invites applications for its two-year **Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Curatorial Fellowship**. The APS seeks applications from recent PhDs in the fields of 18th- or 19th-century American history, history of science, art history, museology, or other related humanities disciplines. The Fellowship, based in the APS Museum, will provide hands-on experience in curatorial work and the opportunity to pursue an independent research project, preferably one related to the collections or programs of the Society’s Library and Museum. As the public face of the Society, the museum researches and interprets the APS’s extensive collections for the regional, national, and international visitors who come to Philadelphia’s historic district.

The goals of the Museum are to:

* Share the circa 13 million manuscripts and other materials held by the Society with the general public through curated thematic exhibitions.
* Nurture the spirit of inquiry, promote critical thinking, and engender enthusiasm for object-based learning by using primary source documents and authentic objects.

The Mellon Fellow’s primary responsibility will be to conduct research in the APS Library and Museum collections in preparation for exhibitions exploring the intersections of history, art, and science. The Fellow will be fully integrated into the APS Museum staff, working closely with others on the curatorial team. They will select objects for exhibitions and develop thematic narratives. The Fellow will gain extensive experience in planning and implementing exhibitions as well as researching and writing interpretive materials for non-scholarly audiences (exhibition labels and text panels, website text, etc.). Depending on the Fellow’s interests and the Museum’s needs, they may also participate in public programming, museum education, collections management, and website development. Upcoming exhibitions include (working titles):

April – December, 2019: *Mapping a Nation: Shaping the American Republic*

April – December, 2020: *Benjamin Franklin’s Science* (2019-2021 fellow will be co-curator)

April – December, 2021: *Women in Science: Unequal Recognition* (2019-2021 fellow will be lead curator)

Twenty percent of the Fellow’s time will be reserved for their own independent research, ideally using resources at the APS or kindred regional institutions. The Fellow will also be expected to participate in the vibrant intellectual community at the Society, including biannual symposia for the elected Members of the APS, monthly lunches at the Library with visiting scholars, and evening programs with specialists in a wide range of fields.

**This two-year Fellowship** **begins July 1, 2019 and ends June 30, 2021.** Compensation is $48,500 a year plus benefits, along with additional funds for research support, travel, and relocation. The Fellowship may not be held concurrently with any other fellowship or grant. **The application deadline is November 26, 2018. Notification is in February 2019.**

**Qualifications:**

* PhD in any humanities discipline, awarded within the past five years. 18th- and 19th-century American history, the history of science, and the history of art often relate most closely to exhibition content. However, the museum’s approach is interdisciplinary, and applications from qualified researchers in any humanities discipline are welcome. Applicants must have PhD in hand by June 30, 2019.
* Excellent analytical and writing skills; experience in writing for different purposes and broad audiences.
* Desire to work collaboratively.
* Broad interests, along with the intellectual and conceptual tools necessary for working across disciplines and time periods, and for making creative connections.
* Flexibility and the capacity to learn quickly.
* Project-oriented organizational skills.
* Strong interest in exploring a career in the museum field and/or public history.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS/CHECKLIST**

* Completed application form.
* Cover letter stating interest in exploring curatorial work.
* Comprehensive curriculum vitae, with items listed within categories in reverse chronological order (include external support received during graduate study: fellowships, teaching or research assistantships, tuition grants, etc.).
* Statement of current research interests (no more than 1,500 words). This statement should include a description of a potential personal research project to work on during the Fellowship, preferably one related to the APS collections or programs.
* Excerpt(s) from dissertation (no more than 5,000 words). An excerpt from a draft in progress is acceptable.
* Example of non-scholarly writing, if available.
* A letter from a Department Chair or Director of Graduate Studies (or equivalent) confirming that the applicant will complete their PhD by the required date.
* Two confidential letters of recommendation, which must be submitted with the APS recommendation form provided at <http://www.amphilsoc.org/grants/curatorialfellowship> *Please see instructions in next section.*

***APPLICATION DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 26, 2018.***

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE EMAILED TO:** MellonFellowship@amphilsoc.org

**SUBJECT LINE OF EMAIL:** Last Name, First Name - Mellon Application 2019-2021

**APPLICATION FORM**

***APPLICATION DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 26, 2018***

**APPLICANT INFORMATION**

Salutation:

Full Name:

Primary Email Address:

Primary Phone:

Home Address:

City/State/Zip Code:

**EDUCATION**

PhD Degree received from:

Date received (or to be received):

Title of Doctoral Dissertation:

Name of Academic Supervisor:

Primary Discipline:

Secondary Discipline(s) or Area(s) of Expertise:

Museum Experience, if any:

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS**

Please let us know how you found out about this Fellowship. Where else would you recommend that we list it? :

*Optional.* Please identify your primary racial / ethnic group, using U.S. census categories (check all that apply):

[ ]  Asian

[ ]  Black or African American

[ ]  American Indian and Alaska Native

[ ]  White

[ ]  Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

[ ]  Hispanic or Latino

[ ]  Other (Please specify):

**LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**

**Two confidential letters of recommendation, with an optional third confidential letter of recommendation.** Recommenders must use the APS online recommendation form at <http://www.amphilsoc.org/grants/curatorialfellowship> and email the completed form and letter directly to MellonFellowship@amphilsoc.org. It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that recommenders use the APS form, have the questions to be addressed (*listed below*), and that the letters are received by the November 26, 2018 deadline. Please do **not** include recommendation letters with the application.

**All recommenders must address the following:**

* + Does the applicant have a sincere interest in museum studies and/or public history?
	+ How would this fellowship advance their career goals?
	+ Is the applicant able to research and write collaboratively? If possible, please provide specific examples.
	+ How does the applicant respond to externally imposed changes to a project in which they are invested?

The two required recommendations should include one from the applicant’s dissertation advisor and one from the applicant’s supervisor at a museum or other such employer, if applicable. The third optional letter is at the discretion of the applicant.

1. Recommender’s Name:

Title:

University:

1. Recommender’s Name:

Title:

University or employer:

1. Recommender’s Name:

Title:

University or employer: